

## Weekly Field Memo – July 9, 2014

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### NEWS & UPDATES:

#### New Feature on the Agency's Website: *Let's Talk Education Blog*

##### **Audience: All**

This month we are spotlighting assessments on the *Let's Talk Education* [blog](#). We asked educators, administrators, students, Governor Shumlin and Agency staff to talk about assessments. Students and teachers shared their [SBAC Field Test](#) experiences and advice. [Click here](#) to read what they have to say.

**Contact:** Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us)

#### Sixty-five School Teams Gather in Killington to Collaborate

##### **Audience: All**

400+ educators came together at the annual Building Effective Strategies for Teaching (BEST) / Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Summer Institute to learn, share and plan actions for improving the academic and behavioral outcomes of each Vermont learner. [Click here](#) to read the press release.

**Contact:** Carol Randall, Assistant Director – ISL PreK-Middle, 802-479-1441 or [carol.randall@state.vt.us](mailto:carol.randall@state.vt.us)

#### Spotlight on Agency Contact Info: Special Education Monitoring and Data Reporting Team

##### **Audience: All**

The Special Education Monitoring and Data Reporting Team can be reached as follows:

- Alice Farrell, Assistant Director of GSM, [alice.farrell@state.vt.us](mailto:alice.farrell@state.vt.us) or 802-479-1191
- Mike Bailey, Data Manager, 802-479-1165 or [mike.bailey@state.vt.us](mailto:mike.bailey@state.vt.us)
- Alicia Hanrahan, Team Leader, 802-479-1206 or [alicia.hanrahan@state.vt.us](mailto:alicia.hanrahan@state.vt.us)
- Lucinda Morabito, Data & Reporting Coordinator, 802-479-1208 or [lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us](mailto:lucinda.morabito@state.vt.us)
- Lynne Themistocles, Education Consultant, 802-479-1245 or [lynne.themistocles@state.vt.us](mailto:lynne.themistocles@state.vt.us)
- Sharon Welch, Administrative Assistant, 802-479-1249 or [sharon.welch@state.vt.us](mailto:sharon.welch@state.vt.us)
- Ernest Wheeler, Education Consultant, 802-479-1252 or [ernest.wheeler@state.vt.us](mailto:ernest.wheeler@state.vt.us)

Learn more about Special Education in Vermont here: <http://education.vermont.gov/special-education>

#### AOE Communication

##### **Audience: All**

Our press releases, field memos, calendar of events, and more are online: <http://bit.ly/11ajrtH>. AOE staff information is available online: <http://education.vermont.gov/contact>. View our strategic plan here: <http://bit.ly/1cZbMBP>. Connect with the AOE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).

**Contact:** Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, 802-479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us)

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## LEGISLATIVE & REQUIRED ACTIONS:

### Regional Calendars for the 2014-2015 School Year

#### Audience: All

State statute [16 V.S.A. § 1071\(e\)](#) requires that superintendents of schools and headmasters of public schools not managed by school boards in an area meet annually, and by majority vote establish a uniform calendar within that area for the following school year. The summary of school calendars, as submitted to the AOE by [technical center regions](#), is available online: <http://bit.ly/1ilOivY>.

**Contact:** Allison Keating, Program Technician, 802-479-1855 or [allison.keating@state.vt.us](mailto:allison.keating@state.vt.us)

### Reminder: Annual Technology Survey OPEN for Submissions

#### Audience: Technology Coordinators, Principals

#### Deadline: July 31, 2014

The **required** annual survey of all schools regarding education technology is open for submissions. Please make every effort to complete the survey for each school by July 31, 2014. Read the instructions and complete the survey here: <https://survey.uvm.edu/index.php/43466/lang-en>.

**Contact:** Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, 802-479-1169 or [peter.drescher@state.vt.us](mailto:peter.drescher@state.vt.us)

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## CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS:

### Grants Management Workshop

#### Audience: Special Education Administrators, Grants Administrators, Business Managers

#### Deadline: July 15, 2014

The AOE is offering a one-day workshop on how to manage and spend federal grant funds. The same workshop will be offered three times: July 15, September 10, and October 23, 2014. The workshop will cover grants management requirements for all federal grants. In addition to a comprehensive overview, AOE staff will highlight **changes to federal regulations**, which will be effective at the end of 2014. [Click here](#) to view the agenda, register and learn more.

**Contact:** Cathy Hilgendorf, School Finance Team, 802-479-7451 or [cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)

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## STANDARDS & ASSESSMENTS:



### Common Core State Standards (CCSS): Resources on the Agency's Website

#### Audience: All

Check out our Common Core page: <http://bit.ly/1m9D7b4>; resources are added regularly. [Click here](#) to learn more about CCSS ELA and [click here](#) to learn more about CCSS Mathematics.

**Contacts:** Pat Fitzsimmons, Common Core Coordinator, [pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us](mailto:pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us); Lori Dolezal, Elementary Literacy Coordinator, [lori.dolezal@state.vt.us](mailto:lori.dolezal@state.vt.us); Kris Breen, Secondary Literacy Coordinator, [kris.breen@state.vt.us](mailto:kris.breen@state.vt.us); Tracy Watterson, Math Coordinator, [tracy.watterson@state.vt.us](mailto:tracy.watterson@state.vt.us)



### Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS): Resources on the Agency's Website

**Audience: All**

Check out our Science page: <http://education.vermont.gov/science>; resources are added regularly.

**Contacts:** Gail Hall, Middle-High School Science, 802-479-1284 or [gail.hall@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.hall@state.vt.us); Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science, 802-479-1448 or [kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us](mailto:kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us)

**Smarter Balanced Assessment: FAQ****Audience: All**

How will Smarter Balanced validate its college and career readiness benchmark? [Click here](#) to read the answer. Read past FAQs here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac/frequently-asked-questions>.

**Contacts:** Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or [michael.hock@state.vt.us](mailto:michael.hock@state.vt.us); Mary Ann Minardo, Teacher Outreach Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or [maryann.minardo@state.vt.us](mailto:maryann.minardo@state.vt.us)

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## OTHER EDUCATION NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS:

**Mobius, Vermont's Mentoring Partnership****Audience: All**

Want to learn more about mentoring in Vermont? [Click here](#) to read our monthly newsletter. [Click here](#) to view the statewide directory of mentoring programs. We encourage you to get involved in mentoring, especially in our schools! [Click here](#) to learn more about mentoring in Vermont.

**Contact:** Benji Thurber, Mobius Communications Manager, [benji@mobiusmentors.org](mailto:benji@mobiusmentors.org)

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This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the Agency will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 479-1240 or [angela.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:angela.ross@state.vt.us).

**Sign up for the weekly field memo here:** [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html)

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